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Alan Dixon
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Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC 20554

Re.: WT Docket 98-143
1998 Biennial Regulatory Review -
Amendment of Part 97 of the Commission's
Amateur Service Rules

1998 November 28

Greetings:

Please find enclosed formal comments filed in the above captioned matter.

Regards,



Alan Dixon

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Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554

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In the Matter of)
1998 Biennial Regulatory Review -)
Amendment of Part 97 of the Commission's)
Amateur Service Rules)

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With regard to the proposed rule changes on the table, I wish to express support for the comments filed to date by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). Nonetheless, I need to put forth two contentions to re-affirm ARRL's position where in agreement, and to assert another perspective where possibly not in concert thereto.

1) Under no circumstances should any presently licensed radio amateur's operating privileges be reduced or limited. For example, if the current Technician Plus license is eliminated, those now holding this certification must be grandfathered to the equivalent to General class. Or, at a minimum, they may be designated the equivalent to the present Technician class, but retain all present High Frequency (HF) operating privileges henceforth. It would be counter-productive to reduce Technician Plus operating privileges to those of present day Technician. Such a situation as reduction of privileges would have at least two devastating consequences: One, it can be said logically with confidence that most Technicians Plus have invested substantial amounts of personal funds into HF radio equipment. A limiting rule change would render this investment useless in the absence of a license upgrade, for which many hams have not time to prepare. Some amateurs would conceivably become disgusted with what could be viewed (in this theoretical example) as capricious and arbitrary rulemaking policy on the part of the Federal

Communications Commission. Two, manufacturers of amateur radio equipment may lose confidence in the market for precisely the same reasons as mentioned in the first consequence above. Such a scenario would lead to a reduced number of amateur operators, reduced utilization of the amateur bands, and a reduction in commerce as regards amateur radio equipment manufacture, distribution, and sales.

2) It is most appropriate to keep name designations for any remaining classes of amateur license class, rather than Class I, II, III or Class A, B, C, etc. Names such as Technician, Advanced, and Extra connote a sense of confidence and achievement not attainable by meaningless alpha or numeric designators. A sense of confidence and achievement is important and acts as a further incentive to attract an increased number of new amateur licensees.

Please consider these points carefully, and in the best interest of the amateur radio community's commitment to service.

Respectfully submitted this date, 28 November, in the year of our Lord 1998.



Alan Dixon

RF Engineer

General Radiotelephone Operator PG-4-19631

GMDSS/Radar Operator/Maintainer DB-GB-005305

Amateur Radio Operator, N3HOE

Alan Dixon
General Radiotelephone Engineer
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PERSONAL BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY

Alan and his wife **Sylvia** are homeowners living in the Gwinnett County, Georgia, community of Fountain Glen along with their lhasa apso, Stormy. They enjoy walking for health and getting to know their neighbors. The Dixons are well known in their former community of many years in Baltimore County, Maryland. Church activities, writing, reading, licensed amateur radio operations, and music are among Alan's activities.

A 1973 graduate of **Montgomery College** with an A.A. Degree, Sciences Option, Mr. Dixon has pursued additional studies at **Delaware Tech.** in 1973, **Los Angeles Harbor College** in 1975 and again in 1982, **George Washington University**, 1994, as well as through **Bell Laboratories**. A Bachelor of Science degree candidate majoring in Information Systems at **Villa Julie College**, Greenspring, Maryland in 1994-1996, he has most recently been in biblical studies at **Zarephath Bible Institute**, Zarephath, New Jersey. As if to commemorate an insatiable appetite for knowledge, Mr. Dixon found himself inducted into **Alpha Chi National Scholastic Honor Society** in recent years. Subsequently, he was awarded the merit based **Caroline Garretson Scholarship** in 1998.

Mr. Dixon has served honorably on the **Owings Mills, Maryland, Fire Board** for four terms, 1988-1992, and on the **Baltimore County Fire Communications Committee**, 1992-1994, as well as the **Baltimore County Fire 911 Task Force**, 1992-1994. Most notably, Alan Dixon once stood as a Republican candidate for appointment to the **Federal Communications Commission**, in 1996.

The Dixons are active in the **Pillar of Fire** church at Zarephath. A member of the **Bridgewater Republican Club**, New Jersey, Alan also holds Membership in the **American Radio Relay League**, the **Amateur Radio Emergency Service**, and **NOAA/Skywarn**. He is a veteran of the career and volunteer **Emergency Medical Service** and **Fire Service**, since 1973, and is recently inactive. He is a former member of the **Board of Directors, Baltimore Radio Amateur Television Society, Inc.**, and has been involved with **public broadcasting** as well.

A career path including ten years working experience in **electronics** and **telecommunications**, including wholesaling of wireless hardware, retail consumer electronics, **cellular** and alternative **wireless technology engineering** has rewarded Mr. Dixon. He was formerly engineering at **Bell Atlantic Mobile**, where he is also a shareholder. He is now with **Panasonic's Matsushita Mobile Communications Division**. Mr. Dixon has been associated with **TESSCO Technologies** and **Tandy Corporation** as well. In addition to engineering and writing, Alan was recently a Sunday morning host of Christian programming on **WDVR FM**. Additionally, Mr. Dixon has served on the prestigious **Telecommunications Industry Association TR-43 AHAG Standards Committee** participating in encryption and telecommunications security development.

Mr. Dixon holds a commercial **FCC General Radiotelephone** certification (elements 1 & 3), an **FCC GMDSS/Radar Operator/ Maintainer** certification (elements 7, 8, & 9), and an **FCC amateur Technician Plus** license (elements 1A, 2, & 3A). He has been an FCC licensee since 1975.

Mr. Dixon has been published in *Popular Communications*, *QST* Journal, *RCR* Radio Communications Report, the Baltimore *Sun*, and other periodicals.

SDD/ad